

Message Text

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 PM-03 DODE-00 OMB-01 RSR-01 EUR-10

DPW-01 NIC-01 L-02 /068 W
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R 251050Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5105

USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 13442

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, MILI, VS

SUBJECT: CEASEFIRE AND POLITICAL SITREP MR I, JULY 25, 1973

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SAIGON INFO USSAG NKP RTAFB USDAO
SAIGON JULY 25 REPEATED TO YOU

QUOTE DANANG 0949

1. SECURITY SITUATION:

A. THE NUMBER OF CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS REPORTED REMAINED SLIGHTLY
HIGHER THAN THE DAILY AVERAGE OF WEEKS JUST PAST. THERE WAS A
CONCENTRATION IN THE CATEGORY OF ATTACKS BY FIRE (ABF).

JULY 24, I CORPS HEADQUARTERS BRIEFING:

THIRTEEN CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS WERE REPORTED, CONSISTING OF ONE
GROUND ATTACK, NINE ABF'S AND THREE HARASSMENTS. GVN CASUALTIES:
12 KIA, 30 WIA; PRG/NVA CASUALTIES: 6 KIA. GVN ARTILLERY FIRED
ENTIRELY IN QUANG NGAI (137 ROUNDS). INTELLIGENCE SOURCES
INDICATED CONSTRUCTION OF NEW HOUSES, PROBABLY FOR CIVILIANS,
NORTHEAST OF BEN GIANG (YC974365) IN THE SONG CAI RIVER VALLEY OF
QUANG NAM PROVINCE AND CONSTRUCTION OF 3 BY 5 METER THATCHED HUTS,
PROBABLY FOR STORAGE, NEAR THE END OF THE BRANCH ROAD OFF ROUTE
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T-7 IN NORTHWEST THUA THIEN.

JULY 25:

ELEVEN CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS WERE REPORTED, CONSISTING OF SEVEN ABF'S AND FOUR HARASSMENTS. GVN CASUALTIES: 2 KIA, 26 WIA; PRG/NVA CASUALTIES: 28 KIA. GVN ARTILLERY FIRED IN QUANG NGAI (146 ROUNDS) AND FOR TRAINING PURPOSES IN THE MARINE AND AIRBORNE DIVISION AO'S NORTH OF HAI VAN PASS (215 ROUNDS).

B. IN CONVERSATION WITH POLOFF HUE THE I CORPS FORWARD CHIEF OF STAFF, COLONEL LE KHAC LY, ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE 1ST ARVN DIVISION IS USING ARTILLERY ON A LIMITED SCALE IN RESPONSE TO LIGHT SCATTERED ENEMY MORTAR ATTACKS. CONGEN COMMENT: GVN ARTILLERY WAS REPORTED TO HAVE FIRED IN THE 1ST DIVISION AO ON JULY 18 (REF DANANG 928). OTHER THAN THIS, NO ARTILLERY FIRE HAS BEEN REPORTED IN THIS AO FOR THREE WEEKS. END COMMENT.

C. COLONEL LY ALSO TOLD POLOFF HUE THAT ENEMY CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS NORTH OF HAI VAN APPEARED TO BE MERELY REMINDERS THAT THE VC ARE STILL AROUND, NOT CONSISTENTLY PATTERNED HARASSMENT OF SPECIFIC GVN POSITIONS SUCH AS THE CO BI-BINH MINH AREA BEFORE CEASEFIRE II.

2. ICCS:

THE NEW GVN SENIOR TPJMC REPRESENTATIVE IN REGION I, COLONEL HO NGOC TAM, HAS TRIED TO ESTABLISH MORE CORDIAL RELATIONS WITH THE REGION I ICCS THAN HIS PREDECESSOR COLONEL TRUONG TAM THUC HAD ENJOYED (REF DANANG 884). THUC'S ATTITUDE WAS COOLY CORRECT BUT RELATIONS WITH POLDEL AND HUNGDEL WERE STRAINED AND UNPRODUCTIVE. ONE OF THUC'S STAFF TOLD POLOFF HUE THAT HE DID NOT ATTEND EITHER THE CANADIAN OR AMERICAN NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATIONS BECAUSE HE PREFERRED NOT TO BE IN THE SAME PLACE AS THE POLES AND HUNGARIANS. TAM, IN CONTRAST, PAID LENGTHY COURTESY CALLS ON EACH DELEGATION AND ENGAGED IN FRIENDLY CONVERSATION WITH THE POLES AND HUNGARIANS AT THE POLISH NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION, EVEN TOUCHING ON SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS SUCH AS CLOSER COOPERATION OF ICCS AND JMC IN REGION.

3. TPJMC:

LTC NGUYEN KHAC VINH INFORMED CONGEN POLOFF THAT THE SCHEDULED RELEASES OF CIVILIAN PRISONERS BY THE GVN ON BOTH JULY 24 AND JULY 27 IN REGION II HAVE BEEN CANCELLED. YESTERDAY 6 PRISONERS WERE TO HAVE BEEN RELEASED IN QUANG NAM (AT 807473) AND 19 IN QUANG TIN (BT264129). THERE WERE MECHANICAL DIFFICULTIES WITH THE CONFIDENTIAL

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CARIBOU TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT, HOWEVER, AND THE PRG REFUSED TO GO AHEAD WITH THE RELEASE AS A RESULT OF THE DELAY. AS A RESULT OF THE DEMONSTRATIONS IN LOC NINH (REF SAIGON 13367), NEW ORDERS DIRECT THE REGION II GVN ELEMENT TPJMC TO CANCEL THE JULY 27 RELEASE OF 79 CIVILIAN PRISONERS IN QUANG NGAI (BS364578).

4. GVN THROTTLING PRG PROCUREMENT ACTIVITIES:

REPRESENTATIVES OF EVERY PROVINCE AND MOST MAJOR COMMANDS ATTENDED

A MAJOR STAFF GATHERING AT PROVINCE HEADQUARTERS QUANG NGAI ON JULY 23 TO HEAR A PRESENTATION BY THE I CORPS STAFF TEAM COORDINATING GVN EFFORTS TO CONTROL ENEMY PROCUREMENT ACTIVITIES IN MR I. (REF DANANG 850). DIRECTOR RRO REPORTS THAT THE TEAM, INCLUDING THE DEPUTY I CORPS COMMANDER MG HOANG VAN LAC, DESCRIBED ENEMY EFFORTS, MEANS OF OPERATION AND RESULTS IN TERMS OF CONTRABAND LOST TO THE ENEMY. TWO POINTS WERE EMPHASIZED: THE LOSS TO THE GVN REPRESENTED BY THE COMMODITIES, EQUIPMENT AND PRODUCE PROCURED BY THE ENEMY AND THE ADVERSE IMPACT ON PRICES OF THE HIGH RATES AT WHICH THE ENEMY IS BUYING. THE I CORPS COMMANDING GENERAL, LTG NGO QUANG TRUONG, HAS ALSO EMPHASIZED, HOWEVER, THAT NECESSARY NEW CONTROLS AND SWIFT, STRICT PUNISHMENTS SHOULD NOT LEAD TO UNNECESSARY HARASSMENT OF PEOPLE ENGAGED IN COMMERCE AND TRANSPORT. WHILE QUANG NGAI IS THE PILOT OTHER PROVINCES ARE EXPECTED TO FOLLOW UP WITH THEIR OWN PLANS, ACCORDING TO DIRECTOR RRO. SIGNED POPPLE UNQUOTE
MARTIN

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